

Applicant : Bradford W. Gutting et al.
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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A spore germinant produced by IC-21 macrophages.
2. (Currently amended) A method for producing one or more germinants from IC-21 macrophages, comprising the steps of:
 providing IC-21 macrophages;
 adding spores to the provided IC-21 macrophages in an amount effective to produce germinant;
incubating said IC-21 macrophages and said added spores in a medium, whereby said one or more germinants are produced; and
recovering said one or more germinants from said medium.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein [the added] said step of adding spores to the IC-21 macrophages occurs in solution.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of filtering the produced germinant from solution.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of adding spores occurs in a ratio amount of from about 100:1 to about 1:100, spores to macrophage.
6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of adding spores occurs in a ratio amount of from about 10:1 to about 1:10, spores to macrophage.

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7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of adding spores occurs in a ratio amount of [from] about 1:1 [to about 1:1], spores to macrophage.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim [2] 4, wherein the step of filtering comprises use of a filter of from about 0.2 micrometers or less pore size.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of concentrating the filtered germinant.

10. (Withdrawn) The spore germinant product produced by the process of claim 2.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for germinating spores, comprising the steps of: providing one or more germinants from IC-21 macrophages; and, applying the germinants to spores effective to cause germination.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of providing one or more germinants comprises endospores of the *Bacillus* species.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of providing one or more germinants comprises endospores of the *Bacillus globigii*.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of applying the germinants comprises application to spores of the same spore class as used to produce germinant.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of applying the germinants comprises application to spores of a different spore class as used to produce germinant.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the spores comprise endospores.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the endospores comprise *Bacillus*

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species.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the endospores comprise *Bacillus globigii*.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of applying the germinants comprises a germinant composition with germinant present in an amount of from about 1×10^{12} mg/L to about 1×10^{-12} mg/L.

20. (Withdrawn) A non-pathogenic bacteria strain spore germinant.